

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A powder paint composition comprising at least:
  - (a) a thermosetting polymer having functional groups capable of reacting with  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide units
  - (b) a compound comprising  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide units and
  - (c) a deceleration agent, ~~capable of~~ which reversibly blocks ~~blocking~~ the functional groups of polymer (a) by forming a reversible bond with the functional groups of polymer (a) in the form of a hydrogen bridge, an ionic bond or a salt complex such that the curing reaction is slowed, wherein

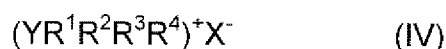
The deceleration agent is present in an amount sufficient to block at least 9 % of the total amount of functional groups of polymer (a).

2. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that the polymer (a) is a carboxylic acid functional polymer or an anhydride functional polymer.

3. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV) :



or



wherein:

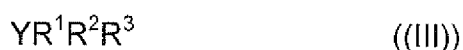
Y is N or P,

$\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  or  $\text{R}^4$  are independently of each other, ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and

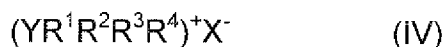
X<sup>-</sup> is halide.

4. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to Claim 3, wherein characterised in that the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III).
5. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to Claim 3, wherein characterised in that Y is N.
6. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to Claim 3, wherein characterised in that R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are unsubstituted carbon chains.
7. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that the deceleration agent is ~~octyldimethylamine,~~ octyldimethylamine, decyldimethylamine, dodecyldimethylamine, tetradecyldimethylamine, ~~hexadecyldimethylamine,~~ hexadecyldimethylamine, octadecyldimethylamine, ~~hydrogenated tallow alkyl)-dimethylamine and/or hexadecyldimethylamine~~ (hydrogenated tallow alkyl)-dimethylamine and/or hexadecyldimethylamine.
8. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a precursor powder paint composition according to Claim 1 comprising at least the steps of:
  - a) producing ~~[[a]] the~~ polymer (a) having functional groups capable of reacting with β-hydroxyalkylamide units at the processing temperature T<sub>p</sub>;
  - b) adding ~~[[a]] the~~ deceleration agent (c) to the polymer (a) at temperature T<sub>a</sub>, wherein T<sub>a</sub> is equal to or lower than T<sub>p</sub> but higher than the T<sub>g</sub> or T<sub>m</sub> of the polymer, in an amount sufficient to block at least 9% of the functional groups of the polymer (a) capable of reacting with β-hydroxyalkylamide units.
9. (original) A process according to Claim 8, wherein the deceleration agent is added before the polymer is cooled down to below its T<sub>g</sub> or T<sub>m</sub>.

10. (currently amended) A method of decelerating the reaction between functional groups of a thermosetting polymer and  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide units of a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide compound, the method comprising adding to the thermosetting polymer an effective amount of a reaction deceleration agent comprised of ~~The use of~~ a tertiary compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV):



or



wherein:

Y is N or P

$\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  or  $\text{R}^4$  are independently of each other, substituted or unsubstituted carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and

$\text{X}^-$  is halide,

~~as a deceleration agent in a powder paint composition comprising a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide compound.~~

11. (previously presented) A process for curing a powder paint composition on a substrate comprising applying the powder paint composition according to Claim 1 onto a substrate and then curing the powder paint composition.